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JAN 20 2017

TOWN OF WEBSTER
ADMINISTRATOR

Overview

On behalf of the Memorial Beach Advisory Committee, please accept this report and recommendations with respect to daily operations at the beach. We believe that the experience of a day at Memorial Beach can be enhanced by attention to the detail of infrastructure, amenities, rules, regulations, and interaction with personnel.

The committee, which was formed in the fall of 2015, was charged with reviewing beach fees, rules and regulations, hours of operation, staffing and costs associated with the operation of the beach. The committee's mission statement is "To provide a premier recreational facility for individuals and families".

The committee has met biweekly since late September. Discussions centered on current operations at the beach with particular attention to areas that could be improved for the benefit of patrons. In addition to our own discussions we also met with Acting Town Administrator Pam Leduc, concerned residents, and had email discussions with Kenny Pizzetti, who is currently responsible for operations at the beach.

We held a walk through at the beach, considered input from residents who attended meetings, discussed comments that have been made on public forums and at past town meetings, and gathered facts on other area beaches. That review led us to identify a number of areas that we felt warranted further discussion.

One underlying theme that came out of many of these discussions is the perception that, in recent years, decisions regarding beach operation were made by determining the impact on town personnel rather than by assessing the needs of the patrons. We feel this is the wrong approach. It is our opinion that Memorial Beach is a vastly underutilized asset of the town that should be used to entertain residents and provide additional revenue. We recognize that operating an entertainment venue like a beach does present challenges, but feel that those can be overcome with proper planning and staffing.

The recommendations contained in the remainder of this report address current operations only and are not intended to address major enhancements to the property. After much discussion, the committee suggests that major enhancements are beyond the scope of an ad hoc committee and are better addressed by professional manager as detailed under the subheading Supervision.

Supervision

In discussing changes to operations and enhancements it became apparent that issues with staffing drive many of these decisions. A comment we heard often was that staff at the beach cannot be expected to enforce rules when there are adult patrons involved. We feel that the town should eliminate this barrier and provide a management and supervisory structure that would allow positive changes that would improve and encourage wide-spread use of the property. The current structure, where all of the daily beach staff is temporary and relatively young and the oversight is handled by the Department of Public Works leaves these young employees in a vulnerable position.

There are a myriad of issues related to the boat ramp that are often left unaddressed because there is no staff to oversee the loading and unloading of boats. This has left the area damaged and there are often issues of safety. One suggestion is to employ an adult to supervise this area. This could be an individual who would be given authority to write tickets for improper use of the facilities. This would be an ideal job for a local senior citizen in conjunction with a Senior Tax Work Off program.

We do acknowledge that current staffing levels are not adequate to address the issues that will certainly arise. Therefore, we suggest that the town seek to hire a professional to manage the beach along with the other parks and recreational facilities in town. Having this person on board would provide more accountability over staffing, supervision of beach personnel, daily operations and future growth and enhancements. We believe that only by hiring a professional, with related experience, can the town hope to build and position our lake as a premier recreational destination for families in central Massachusetts and beyond. This individual should be expected to interface with other town departments and outside parties in order to develop Memorial Beach and position it as a high quality, well managed lake destination that should provide increased revenue to support this position as well as other town programs and projects.

We recommend that the town hire a Director of Parks and Recreation and that these duties be separated from the Department of Public Works

Length of Season

In order to maximize revenue and address concerns of patrons we recommend extending both the hours of operation and the season.

The current season that is built around the school calendar does not take advantage of the Memorial Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day holidays. People are using the beach on those holidays but the booth is unmanned so gate revenue is not collected.

In addition, by extending the hours that the booth is open you will capture revenue that is currently being missed. Many people utilize the beach on summer evenings after the booth personnel have gone home. By lengthening the day, revenue from daily and/or walk in patrons will add to the bottom line.

The season currently operates around the school schedule as many of the seasonal employees are local high school and college students. We feel the obstacle of staffing can be overcome. Other entertainment venues like Six Flags do open before and close after school summer vacation. One possible solution might be to staff the booth utilizing the Senior Tax Work Off Program.

Currently there are times when the gates open and no lifeguards are present. This is also the practice at other area lakes. Bathrooms should be open any time the booth attendants are collecting a fee.

We recommend that booth personnel be on duty from April through Columbus Day from 7 am to 8 pm or dusk if that is earlier.

Tables

Availability and condition of tables for patrons has always been a difficult issue. History has shown that the few tables that are available are often claimed early in the day by one or two groups. We believe that we are not offering enough tables to meet the demand. Currently a handful of tables are available in only one area of the beach. By providing more tables we believe beach utilization will increase. Currently there are 16 tables in storage, half of which are in disrepair.

You may want to also consider allocating table space through the use of a reservation system. Individuals would leave a deposit in order to secure a table for a limited amount of time. Before the deposit was returned beach personnel would ensure that tables were in good condition and trash was picked up.

We recommend that a minimum of 20 tables be available. We suggest adding one or two tables to the Senior Park, several tables to the end of the beach past the swing sets and one or two tables to the peninsula end of the beach. Each table should be anchored to the ground.

Grills

The use of grills continues to be a contentious issue. This is one of those decisions that seems more driven by personnel issues than by attention to patron needs and desires. Since grills are available at local beaches we are sure this can be dealt with in a manner that addresses all concerns.

In the past there have been issues involving the use of large, personal propane grills and improper disposal of coals in town owned grills. We think the following suggestions address both of these issues and will provide beach users with the availability to cook while at the beach.

We reviewed the practice at several area beaches and find that charcoal grills are available at all of them. As an example, at Wallum Lake there are small single family grills near the tables and larger grills located in an area that can be used by larger groups of people. Beach personnel clean the grills each morning and check on them throughout the day to clean them as necessary. Containers for charcoal are provided. No personal grills are allowed.

We recommend that a minimum of 10 individual grills be added near the tables. They should be table height to minimize the risk of tripping over or walking into a grill. A single charcoal disposal box should be purchased and maintained so that patrons have a reasonable method for disposing of coals. If desired, larger grills could be maintained behind the concession stand and monitored by beach personnel. We also recommend that patrons be allowed to bring in tabletop grills using both charcoal and propane fuel.

Minor Enhancements

The committee feels that a few minor enhancements would enhance the beach complex. Currently, the only activities available at the beach are basketball and a playground. We would like to recommend the addition of several horseshoe pits and a sand volleyball court. Currently these types of amenities are available at area lakes. The volleyball court at Buffumville was built as a senior high National Honor Society project. Area Boy Scouts are often looking for Eagle Award Projects and both of these would be very doable.

The basketball court gets quite a lot of use. Currently there is almost no seating at the court. A few flat top benches or the return or replacement of the small set of bleacher seats for people to change shoes or to watch the game would be a simple enhancement.

The walking track past the bridge has several benches that are in disrepair. There are slats missing from each of the benches.

We recommend adding two to four horseshoe pits and a sand volleyball court through the use of volunteers if possible. In addition, seating near the basketball court, at the wooded walking track and on the peninsula should be addressed.

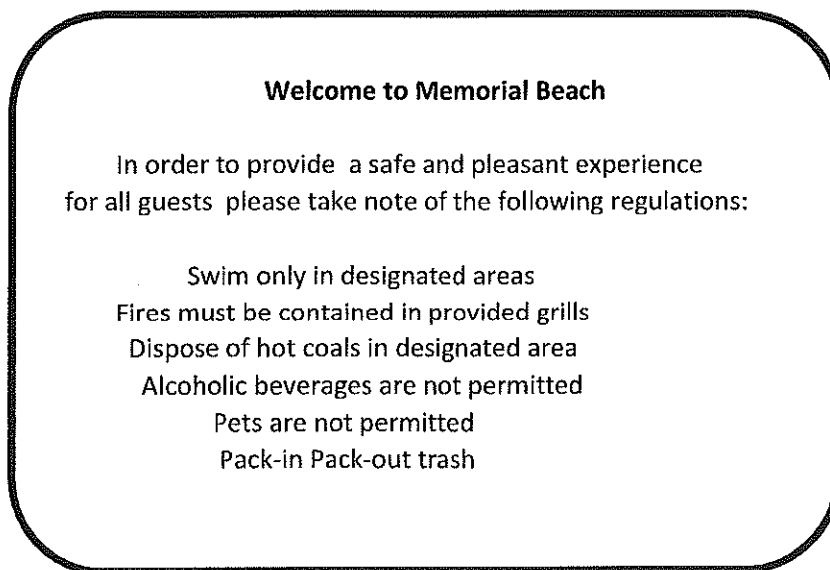
Signage

Current signage seems haphazard, excessive and negative. We recommend a review of all current signage with an eye to consolidating the rules on one or two signs rather than on many signs throughout the complex. In addition, the current signs are not welcoming and the message is negative. We feel a more positive message is possible with a review of the wording. In many cases the signs seem to have been posted in response to incidents that occurred. Rules should also be reviewed to determine whether they are necessary or warranted. We have included a number of the signs as an attachment.

Some examples of current signs that we noticed were:

- A. The prohibition against playing on the grass that is bounded by the walking track seems arbitrary. This is an open area where kids could play while their parents are walking on the track.
- B. No fishing from the peninsula. The lake side of the peninsula seems to be a reasonable place for people to fish from the shore.
- C. No ball playing or flotation devices. We wonder what the reason is for this rule.

An example of a positively worded sign might be as follows:



We recommend that a review be made of all signs to determine that the rule is necessary. In addition we recommend that three comprehensive signs be posted. One each at the entrance booth, the boat ramp and in front of the beach house.

Conclusion

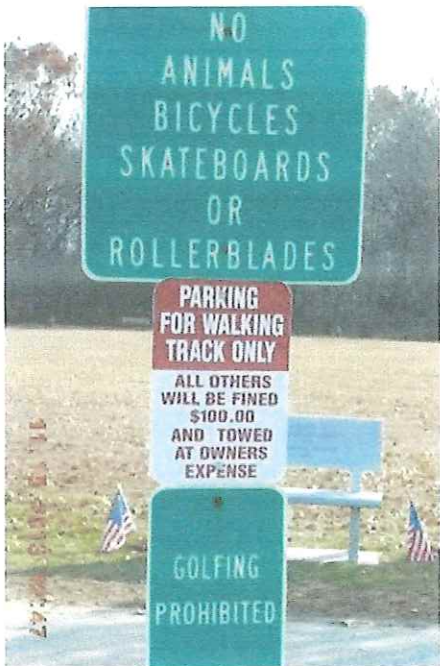
This report has addressed the issues that the committee felt were most pressing prior to the opening of the season. This report has not addressed every issue that the committee has identified.

One major area left to be discussed is the concession stand. It is the opinion of the committee that concessions enhance the beach experience. We would like to find a way to bring concessions back to the beach. The past summer the stand was open during the July 4th holiday and was manned by the Webster Recreation Committee. There are likely many groups who would be willing to operate the booth at their own cost. We have not discussed this in detail and so cannot offer a recommendation at this time.

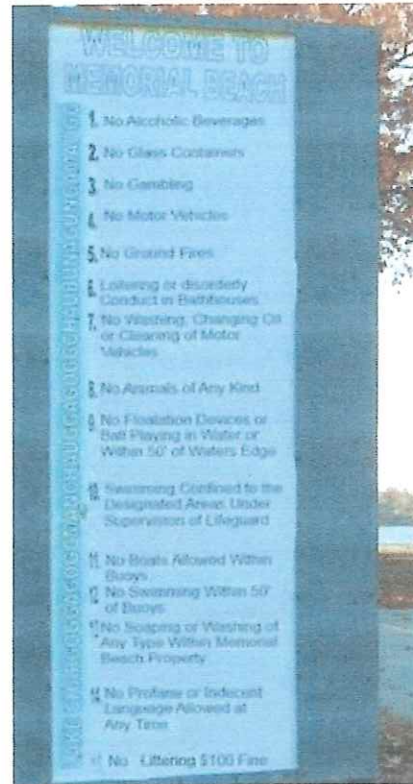
In addition, other areas that we are starting to discuss are: Trash in Trash Out Policy; the potential for a Dog Park in the complex and the purchase and use of a mechanized entrance booth.

Thank you for your consideration of our report and recommendations.

Current Signs



Eliminate:
Golfing
Prohibited



Reorganize sign and remake or remove. Eliminate #2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14

#6 should be separate sign directly on the beach house entrances or inside the beach house.
#9 allow rubber balls or frisbies in the beach and water area. "Define" floatation devises.
#10 revise. Lifeguards are not always present when beach is open.
#13 Eliminate or redefine.
#15 another sign says \$50. This one is \$100



Update all
Information



Eliminate
Both Signs



Eliminate
sign from
Walking Track



Eliminate
No Grills
Sign

Eliminate
Boat Size
Sign



Elininate this sign.

Fishing should be
allowed outside the
marked swimming areas

No reason why someone
cannot fish while family
is swimming



At Boat Ramp
 Eliminate or replace with professional sign



To right of boat ramp
 Clean or replace sign



Near Boat Ramp
 Eliminate.
 Too many
 "No Animal Signs"



Replace Sign

TOWN OF WEBSTER MEMORIAL BEACH			
NON - RESIDENT DAILY PARKING PERMIT/FEE (NO REFUNDS)			
VEHICLES & MOTORCYCLES	\$ 30.00	SCHOOL BUSES	\$90.00
VEHICLE WITH WATER CRAFT (INCLUDES ROOF TOP BOATS)	\$ 50.00	COACH BUSES	\$120.00
NON - RESIDENT SEASONAL PARKING PERMIT/FEE (NO REFUNDS)			
NON-RESIDENT VEHICLES	\$150.00	NON-RESIDENT VEHICLES & TRAILER	\$200.00

Revise and update entire sign



In front of bath house gate.
 Refurbish Orange Sign



Replace with simple
 "\$50 Fine For Littering"



<-----
 Correct times

Make sign
 removable and
 Mounted when
 Life Guards
 Not On Duty
 <-----

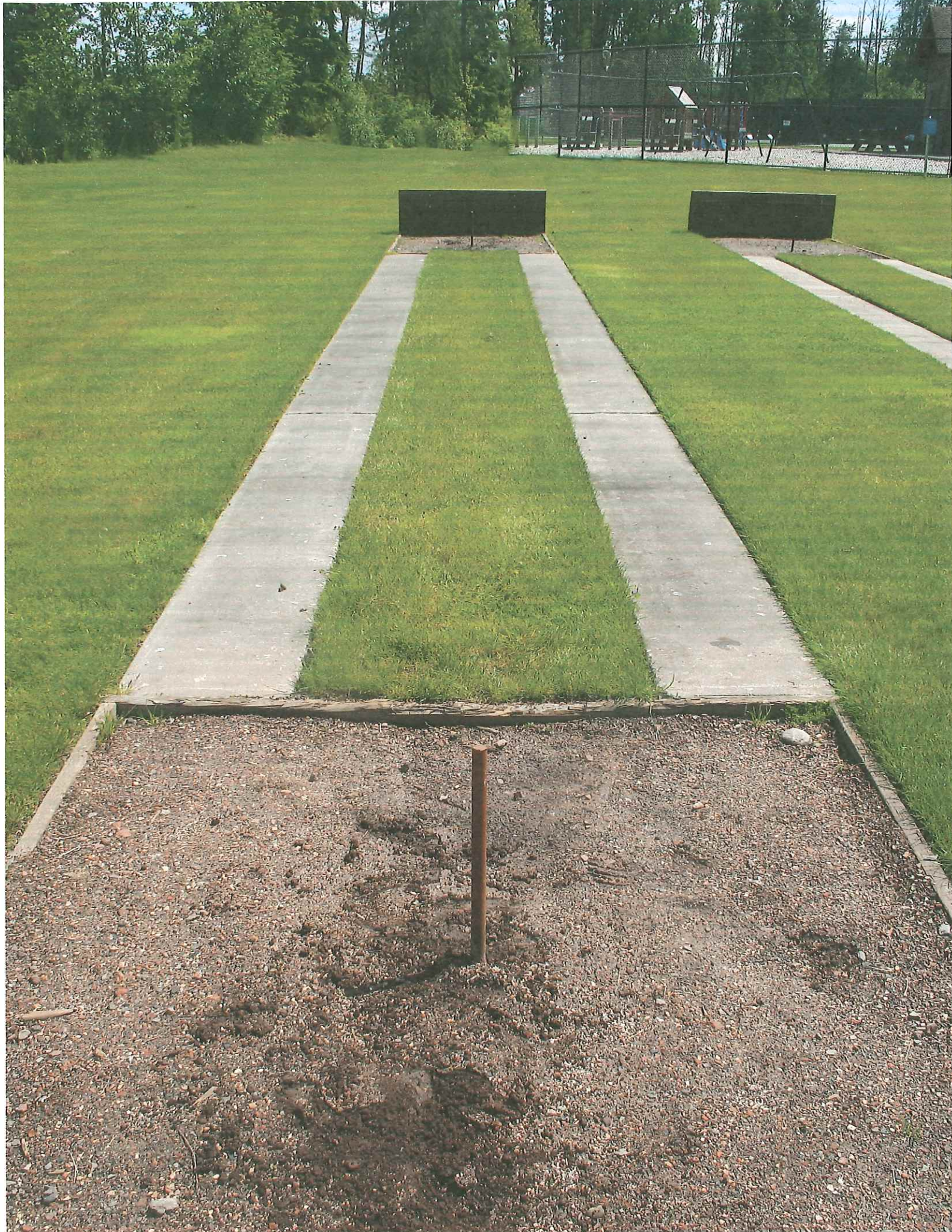


Signs to
 Peninsula

<-----
 Change to
 "No Swimming
 Beyond this
 Point"

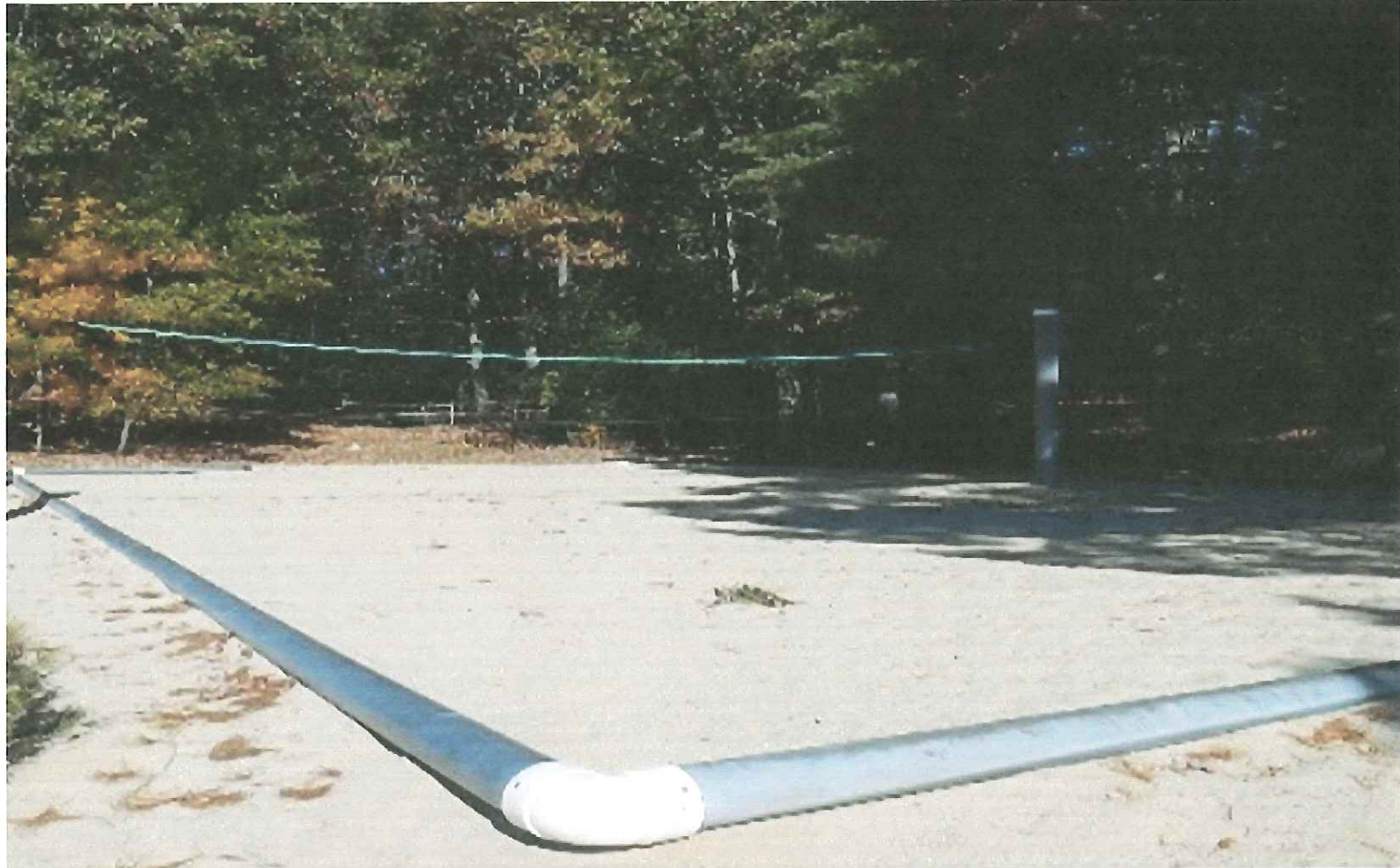
Eliminate No
 Fishing Sign

(Allow fishing
 on both sides
 of leg to
 Peninsula)











Dog Park

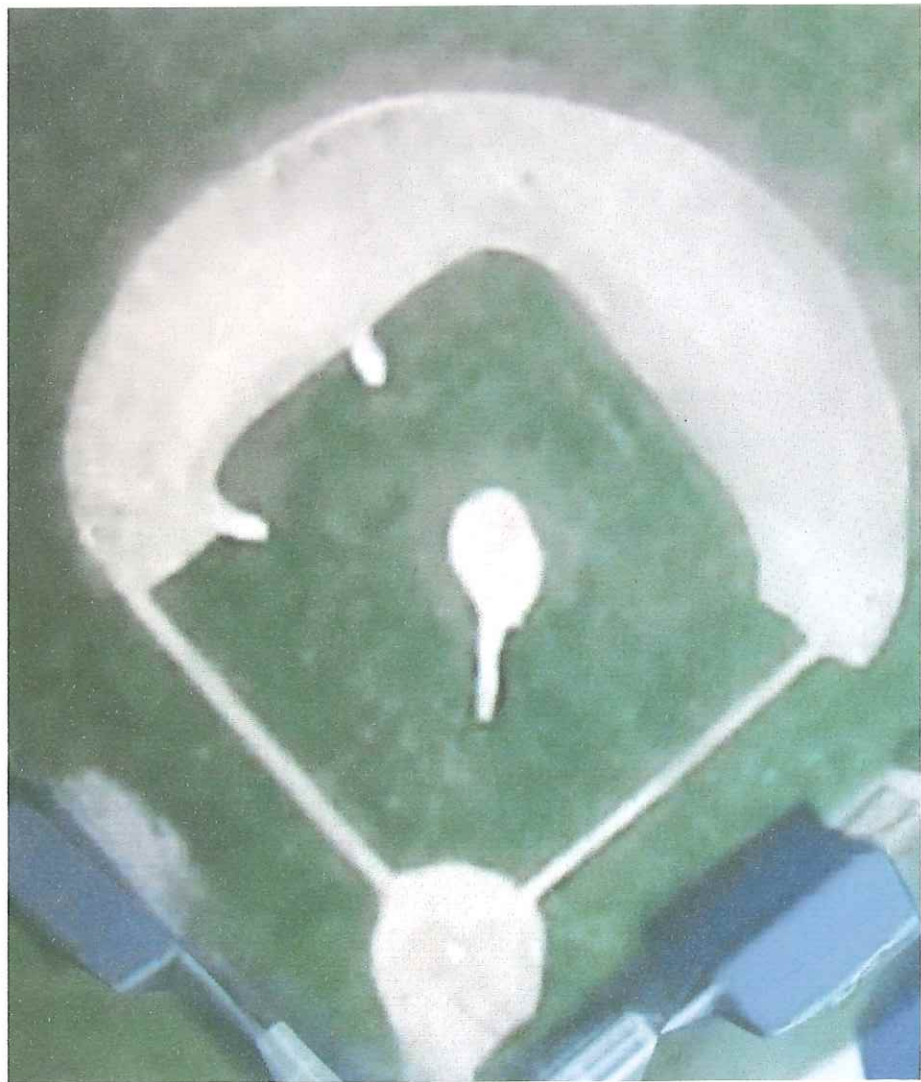
Child
Play

Memorial Beach Dr



Lake O







Mutt Mitt®

The Pet Pollution Solution®



Please dispose
of Mutt Mitts
in the proper
receptacle.

Did You Know?

- Pet waste serves as a carrier for parasites, bacteria, and viruses harmful to humans.
- Pet waste can pollute our waterways and watersheds with infectious pathogens.
- Puncture resistant 2-ply Mutt Mitts were designed with your safety in mind.

Thank you for picking up!



To order
Mutt Mitts,
scan this
code or call
800-697-6084

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U.S.A.



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Mutt Mitt®

The Pet Pollution Solution®



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dispose of Mutt
Mitts in the
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Ray Mullins

September 6

The Board of Selectmen will be appointing a beach committee soon to discuss what changes need to be made or could be made to improve all aspects of the beach? What would your suggestions be and.....keep it respectful.

Like

Comment

7 people like this.



Sparkles AngelaClaire Fleming An affordable consssion stand. How about 25 cent freeze pops and penny candy bring it old school for the parents who only have nickels and dimes.

Like · Reply · 6 · September 6 at 5:56pm · Edited



Michael Shelburne The committee needs to look at strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. I would suggest the committee look at other area beaches such as Dudley (free entrance and grills) and Buffum (very small entrance fee). Maybe these towns have committees that can offer ideas or struggles they face. Working collaboratively is key. Me personally I would like to see grills, an ice cream stand, and a higher volume of use.

Like · Reply · September 6 at 6:16pm · Edited



Amanda Lee We use buffumville.

Its \$1 per adult, \$4 max if you have more than 4 in your car. We've lived here in webster for 10years and have only gone to webster 3x. It is much nicer I think, but I can't afford the high fees and no grilling. Even at \$25 or \$30 for a sticker, I'd have to make 15 trips to make it worth it or cheaper than anywhere else, and we often only go with family from out of town so its a no go, \$150 i think it said for an out of town sticker.

Like · Reply · September 6 at 8:54pm



Write a reply...



Mary Warchal Free to residents.

Like · Reply · 5 · September 6 at 6:18pm



Lynne Lulu Free to residents it is our town but a lot can't afford it!

Like · Reply · 2 · September 6 at 6:27pm



Heather Westmoreland Grills, free or reduced price for residents, SPLASH PAD, id pay for sticker just for that

Like · Reply · 3 · September 6 at 6:29pm



Ray Mullins Send a letter or email to the Selectmen requesting an appointment stating some reason why you think you would be good for the job.

Like · Reply · 3 · September 6 at 6:41pm



Helen Kesner The openings are posted on the official Town of Webster site. Just go on and read the request for members from the Selectmen and apply.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 6:49pm · Edited



Kori Hinkle No fee for residents and ALL grills allowed.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 6:43pm



Ray Mullins **Kori Hinkle** Someone was at the beach today with a huge back yard grill. I don't think something like that would be allowed. Could you imagine the danger if a 20 pound propane tank caught fire or exploded?

Like · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 6:45pm · Edited



Kori Hinkle I have had a gas grill for 40 years and never had one blow up....so no I don't agree...all grills should be allowed. But we can agree to disagree.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 8:23pm



Write a reply...



Km LaMountain What are the odds of a propane tank exploding? Just curious...

Like · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 7:25pm



Ray Mullins All you need is a connection to loosen and let gas escape. That happened to me this summer but I caught it before I lit the grill. They loosen simply by moving the grill around or sometimes cross threading the connection when changing a tank.

Like · Reply · September 6 at 7:40pm



Km LaMountain Hmmm, I'll have to check the connection on ours.

Like · Reply · September 6 at 7:50pm



Write a reply...



Ray Mullins So let's get some more suggestions on other items.

Like · Reply · September 6 at 7:41pm



Debbie Jordan Free for residents

Like · Reply · 2 · September 6 at 7:44pm



Ray Mullins Not liking this new commenting from Facebook. It let's you comment on a comment instead of a new comment. Many of these get lost and unseen. Do not click on "reply". Only use "write a comment".

Like · Reply · 3 · September 6 at 7:59pm · Edited



Ursula Zdrok open rest rooms for the public even when lifeguards leave or porta potties

Like · Reply · 7 · September 6 at 8:24pm



Angela Clark There should be a charge for walk ins. Maybe the same as if you had a car. That way we could lower the entrance fee and draw more people. I agree with the free for residents or maybe a much lower rate.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · September 6 at 8:33pm



Kori Hinkle Rentals for kayaks ect..

Unlike · Reply · 7 · September 6 at 8:37pm



Amanda Lee Or if not free, maybe a lower rate like others mentioned, or some type of punch card..such as come 5x get a free visit.

I've heard rumors of small paddle boat rentals, a water slide, and splash pad. Something like that would justify a \$25 sticker. But maybe a friends and family, such as i live here in town, my mom would be able to get a sticker if she went with me. 25 for resident, 150 for out of town is a giant price gap.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · September 6 at 8:57pm



Sandy Langer Maisano **Amanda Lee**, I thought it was either \$30 or \$35 per visit for non residents.

Like · Reply · September 6 at 9:06pm



Amanda Lee For the sticker for the season was 150. 35\$ a day i think, but again we can go to other lakes for \$1 per person, \$4-\$8 per car etc. My family is all in worc, and just to have a party or cookout at webster lake would cost them hundreds to attend. We usually do buffum.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 9:07pm



Write a reply...



Mary Warchal Could you also offer lifeguard or water safety courses? How about swimming lessons? Fishing?

Like · Reply · 4 · September 6 at 9:06pm



Mary Warchal Canoe Rentals!

Like · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 9:06pm



Ursula Zdrok swim lessons

Like · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 9:09pm



Ray Mullins Red Cross used to conduct swim lessons many years ago. Good idea. Also, next year Seniors 65 and older "will" get free stickers.

Like · Reply · 4 · September 6 at 9:14pm



Mary Warchal If they do swim leasons or water safety try for Weekend days in the early morning or evening or perhaps take a poll to see what times would bring the most people.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 9:21pm



Mary Warchal Beach sports like volleyball or badminton? Horseshoes?

Like · Reply · 2 · September 6 at 9:23pm



Helen Kesner I really liked the picture somebody posted with the charcoal grills that were 4 together don't know how to explain it but that would be nice put a few 4 way grills up could be stationary in 1 area and people could grill and then go off to their picnic area to eat.

Like · Reply · September 9 at 2:09pm



Megan Turcotte Beach patrols to help keep the ruckus down to a minimum. Rules about music volume would be good too.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 9 at 5:26pm



Marlene Auclair Maybe instead of four kids reading at the entrance they could take turns monitoring the beach. They could clean up mess, check for charcoal and see any problems. If they can't solve the problem then they can call in help. Also, reduce fees.

Like · Reply · September 10 at 10:44am



Write a reply...



David Kane I am a resident, I paid the \$35 for a sticker and went to the beach 4 times when there were people checking stickers, the other 3 time's I went there was no one checking stickers and no lifeguards. I do not think I will waste my hard eared money next year.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 10 at 11:16am



Ray Mullins **Crystal Ryan**, At times when they are playing basketball they are also tending to the day campers and with the kids. There is usually a bus load from the Webster/Dudley boys and girls club that drop off kids daily at the beach.

Like · Reply · September 10 at 11:23am · Edited



Marlene Auclair There are many times when there were no busses, no campers...no people. Those are the times they should be cleaning the beach and bathrooms. There are many things they could do for the paycheck. It would save parks dept time also.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 10 at 11:41am



Ray Mullins Most times the busses drop the kids off and leave. Very often throughout the day the attendants are riding around the entire areas on golf carts picking up trash.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 10 at 11:55am



Marlene Auclair I never saw that happen. I always saw them sitting in front and/or playing basketball with just the 4 or 5 of them. I may be mistaken as I was not there everyday. I just think it would be wiser to have some patrol the grounds and look for all the things people complain about such as garbage, dumped coals. Hell, we are paying them for their time...why not make it a win-win.

Like · Reply · September 10 at 12:05pm



Marlene Auclair Also, hire a few to work till Labor Day..

Like · Reply · 2 · September 10 at 12:07pm



Helen Kesner I think they definitely have to specify the job does not end until the end of Labor Day. That should just be a given.

Unlike · Reply · 4 · September 10 at 12:11pm



Helen Kesner Decision should be made whether walking track (s) are part of the sticker. Also maybe separate beach from compost.

Like · Reply · 3 · September 10 at 12:17pm



Marlene Auclair Agree Helen. Walking track free, pay for compost separate from beach and reasonable fees.

Like · Reply · 2 · September 10 at 12:43pm



Ray Mullins Walking track included. To many people park at the track and walk into the beach free. Move the booth back to where they planned on it being before they paved the road.

Like · Reply · 3 · September 10 at 2:01pm · Edited



Ray Mullins



Like · Reply · 1 · September 10 at 2:38pm



Randy Beauregard For those who cannot afford the fee to the beach(town residents) how about giving them the opportunity to volunteer in some way to gain access to the beach for their family

Like · Reply · 3 · September 11 at 8:21am



Ray Mullins Sparkles Angela Claire Fleming 25 cent freeze pops and penny candy sales would not pay the salary of a concession stand attendant. You can't get penny candy anymore. Nickels and dimes are now equal to what pennies were 50 years ago.

Like · Reply · September 11 at 8:27am



Helen Kesner Our wishes for the beach should be consistent with what we are willing to pay.

Like · Reply · 2 · September 11 at 8:56am · Edited



Joe Beresik A "Citizens Petition" article has been submitted for the Oct.19, 2015 town meeting at BHS auditorium. The article requests the town meeting approve the admission of Webster residents to Memorial Beach be free of any fee, charge or any other attempt to collect admission. What is now needed is the interested registered voters to attend the Oct. town meeting to hear the pros/cons to be discussed. A lot has been printed in this forum about the Memorial Beach fee for Webster residents and now it is time to express yourself and vote according to your choice. Let's see how many will show up at the Oct. town meeting.

Like · Reply · 4 · September 12 at 7:02am



Crystal Ryan I have a question. How many registered voters are there in Webster verses residents eligible for voting?

Like · Reply · September 12 at 7:19am



Heather Mulcahy-Richards it is probably a shocking #

Like · Reply · September 12 at 7:21am



Crystal Ryan I'm really curious. I think Ray Mullins may have the numbers.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 12 at 7:29am



Write a reply...



Ray Mullins There is approximately 9831 registered voters in Webster. I say approximately because it can change daily as more people register and some move out of town or die off.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 12 at 9:12am



Crystal Ryan How many residents in Webster are eligible to vote?

Like · Reply · September 12 at 10:02am



Write a reply...



Ray Mullins Approximately 10,320 according to the census report.

Like · Reply · 2 · September 12 at 11:46am



Ray Mullins On average we are lucky to get about 1300 voting at town elections.

Like · Reply · 1 · September 12 at 8:12pm



Lee Ann Majercik And....there are even fewer who show up to vote during the town meeting!

Unlike · Reply · 2 · September 12 at 8:15pm



Sandie Radcliffe I say go back in time and I have said it over and over again. Free to residents and the beach will be just as crowded as it was 25 years ago. When we residents get in for free our out of town friends show up and pay. It's a win win.

Like · Reply · 4 · September 12 at 8:25pm



Angela Clark I think fees for walk ins is a win=win! I dropped my granddaughters off at the beach this past summer and expected to pay SOMETHING! I was amazed that nothing was collected. THAT'S CRAZY!!

Like · Reply · September 12 at 9:52pm



Debbie Jordan Not all can walk in because some may be handicap

Like · Reply · 2 · September 12 at 9:55pm



Lori Burrows make it wheelchair accessible to the water .

Like · Reply · 1 · September 13 at 6:46pm



Amanda Turner Beau Saad

Like · Reply · September 19 at 6:42pm



Henry Neeser Go look at what Lake Cochituate in Natick does, then take it from there. The place is packed all summer for Kayak, sailboat, paddleboat, and canoe rentals.<http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web...>

Like · Reply · September 19 at 9:11pm



Ray Mullins Webster does not compare to a city like Natick. We do not need "On summer weekends and some holidays, this park may reach maximum day-use parking capacity and be temporarily closed until sufficient parking is available". That is exactly why Wallum Lake has stopped reopening the lake after capacity is reached.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · September 19 at 9:15pm



Lee Ann Majercik Lake Cochituate is a state run facility from what I see on the web site. I imagine that makes some difference regarding how it is funded from our town run beach. Not that we can't look at it to get some good ideas.

Thanks for the link!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 · September 19 at 9:18pm



Henry Neeser Only suggesting what may make the lake better, don't follow the link if you don't want to. Only a suggestion, some rentals of watercraft may attract people....

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · September 19 at 9:24pm



Henry Neeser BTW Lake Cochituate doesn't have half the realestate that Memorial Beach has, but they have nice docks, loaded with all the rental watercraft, moorings for the sailboats, and it's not free to get in like memorial beach is in the off season. Memorial Beach is so mismanaged it's pathetic...

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · September 19 at 9:33pm



Nancy Blouin Tabor Free for town residents.

A carry in, carry out policy for trash

Concession for renting kayaks, paddle boards etc.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · September 20 at 6:29am



Joe Beresik An amusement park like 6 Flags but half the size.. We can name it 3 Flags...lol

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 ·

Central Massachusetts

- Dean Pond at [Brimfield State Forest](#) , Brimfield - \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Douglas State Forest](#) , Douglas- \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Dunn State Park](#) , Gardner- \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Erving State Forest](#) , Erving- \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Lake Dennison Recreation Area](#) , Winchendon- \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Lake Wyola State Park](#) , Shutesbury \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Leominster State Forest](#) , Leominster/Westminster- \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Otter River State Forest](#) , Baldwinville \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Pearl Hill State Park](#) -West Townsend- \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Purgatory Chasm State Reservation](#) , Sutton- \$5 MA Vehicle, \$6 non-MA Vehicle
- [Quabbin Reservoir](#) , Vehicle \$6, Vehicle and Trailer (includes launching fees) \$8
Senior Citizens 62 and older and Handicapped (with placard): half price
- [Quinsigamond State Park](#) , Worcester- Regatta Point and/or Lake Park \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle (charged year-round)
- [Rutland State Park](#) , Rutland - \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Wachusett Mountain State Reservation](#) , Princeton- \$5 MA Vehicle, \$6 non-MA Vehicle
- [Wells State Park](#) , Sturbridge- \$5 MA Vehicle, \$6 non-MA Vehicle
- [Wendell State Forest](#) , Wendell - \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle
- [Willard Brook State Forest](#) , Ashby/Townsend- \$8 MA Vehicle, \$10 non-MA Vehicle

Meeting with Wallum Lake Wardens 1-21-2016

Discussion on the following subjects:

Ducks, Geese, Seagulls

How to environmentally control these birds.

They use a starting pistol to scare away the Geese and post signs not to feed them but, beyond that they have no suggestions.

The starting pistol is out of the question. I asked about fines for those who feed them. They said they rarely fine anyone but they do warn people seen feeding them.

Traffic and use control

Gates are closed as soon as the parking lot is full. They do not reopen the gates for that day and walk ins are also not allowed after the beach entry is closed.

Grills, How maintained and supplier

Grills are provided. Single grills as well as larger multiple grills are available. They are imbedded and not moveable. They are cleaned out each morning and checked periodically throughout the day and cleaned as necessary. Containers are used for coals. Grills are first come first served and not reservable.

They are purchased from Pilot Rock (RJ Thomas Mfg Co.), Inc. as low bidders for the units. They are secured using Corrugated tubes called Sonar Tubes (Home Depot or Lowes) cut into 18 inch lengths, put into a hole and poles are cemented in. An alternative is to use a 5 Gallon plastic pail. I was given a catalog for the company.

Horseshoes

They have 5 pits they build to specs. They issue sets of horseshoes and hold the persons driver's license until they are turned in. Patrons can also use their own horseshoes.

Trash in and out

They provide bags when they have them available but, not usually. Otherwise they make people responsible for their trash and provide a dumpster for trash and they are told of their responsibilities.

Lifeguards

They are usually Red Cross certified. They use removable signs "Unguarded Waters" when lifeguards are not available. Signs are important and relieve the park from responsibility. Gates open at 9 and lifeguards begin at 10am and work until closing at 6pm. Hours are 9am to 8:pm. Signs are installed at that time. Wardens say that experience shows that early arrivers are usually Mom's or parents with children who are responsible for watching their own children.

On slow days lifeguards are given other duties such minor cleaning or painting jobs or sent home. They like to keep the Guards working whenever possible even on slow days. With multiple chairs guards are rotated from chair to chair to relieve some of the monotony.

For four lifeguard chairs they recommend 5-6 lifeguards allowing for break times.

Because they have a closing time and the gates get locked, they have a PA system announcing closing 30 minutes before actual closing time and they ask people to leave the water, pack up and drive out before gates are close.

Picnic tables

Picnic tables are provided first come first served. They are anchored with galvanized chain from the middle underside of the table tops and anchored similarly to the grills. Tables are all wood and repaired or, when necessary, built by Park maintenance personnel. The legs are built with pressure treated lumber. The remainder of the tables use regular wood and are usually 8 feet long as they feel 8 feet will accommodate the average family.

Boat ramp, powerloading.

At the gate there are two roads. One for beach goers and one for boaters. The same rate applies to both. Signs are posted with fines for power loading but it can't be monitored throughout the day. When Bass Tournaments are held is when they have the biggest problems with power loading and the tournament manager is made responsible to see that all boats are cranked and not power loaded. This usually prevents the power loading for the event. They also provide mooring slots for a limited number of boats.

Restrooms

Restrooms are open when the park is open and checked and cleaned as necessary throughout the day.

Handicapped access

Handicapped users are free to enter. They do not verify the placards when entering. There are no special features for handicapped patrons. They say that the majority of handicapped patrons are not wheel chair bound and are able to access the water without any issues. They do have ONE wheel chair with balloon tires available.

Staffing

I asked how they do their staffing and if they use any adults in the staff. They do not specifically look to older adults. They distribute fliers to local high schools and colleges in the Spring outlining the job descriptions. The only qualifications are for the lifeguards is to be certified. If problems come up they do have regular staff to handle them and when necessary notify the local Police Department. They also gave me a 32 page booklet they use. "Seasonal Employee Handbook".

Pets

Dogs are allowed but not on the beach and must be on a leash no longer than 10 feet. Doggie bags are available. They gave me a sample bag for poop.

On a side note: They said that Breezy point charges \$14 per day per car for the beach only. The charge is higher for the Waterslides.

We need to check our fees to be sure they are higher than Wallum Lake to avoid getting the overload traffic. They "DO" suggest Memorial Beach when they sell out. They said the people have commented that the rates are too high in Webster.